

REMARKS

Applicants have amended claims 1, 6, 7, 9, 20-23, 25, and 26 and have cancelled claims 4 and 5.

Applicants have added new claim 29, which recites the subject matter of claim 8 but depends from claim 6 rather than claim 1. Applicants have also added new claims 30 and 31, which recite the subject matter of claim 24 but depend from claim 6 and 9, respectively, rather than claim 1. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the specification, e.g., original claims 8 and 24, at page 5, lines 6-10, and at page 9, line 34. No new matter is added.

Upon entering the proposed amendments, claims 1-3 and 6-31 will be pending.

Claim Objection

Claim 7 has been amended to remove the arrow after the word “frequency,” as suggested by the Examiner. Thus, this objection should be withdrawn.

Allowable Claims 5-7, 9-23, and 25

The Examiner has indicated that claims 5-7, 9-23, and 25 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. With respect to these claims, the Examiner stated that “none of the prior art either alone or in combination disclose or teach of the claimed combination of limitations to warrant a rejection under 35 USC 102 or 103.”

Applicants have amended claims 5-7, 9-23, and 25 as follows.

Claim 5 has been cancelled (the subject matter of this claim has been added to claim 1).

Claim 6 has been rewritten in independent form as suggested by the Examiner. Thus, claim 6 now is allowable.

Claim 7 has been merely amended to remove an arrow after the word “frequency” from the claims. The subject matter of claim 7 remains as originally filed. As claim 7 depends from claim 6 while claim 6 is allowable, claim 7 is also allowable.

Claim 9 has been rewritten in independent form as suggested by the Examiner. Thus, claim 9 now is allowable.

Claims 10-19 remain as originally filed. These claims depend from claim 9, either directly or indirectly. As claim 9 is allowable, so are claims 10-19.

Claims 20-23 and 25 have been rewritten in dependent form as suggested by the Examiner. Thus, claims 20-23 and 25 now are allowable.

In view of the proposed amendments, Applicants submit that claims 6, 7, 9-23, and 25 are in condition for allowance.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4, 8, 24, and 26-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Khoury *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5684588) (“Khoury”). Solely for the purpose of expediting prosecution of the present invention, Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 26 as shown below.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claims 4 and 5 (both now cancelled). As the Examiner has acknowledged that the subject matter of claim 5 is novel and allowable, amended claim 1 cannot be anticipated by Khoury, and should be allowable. Thus, claims 2, 3, 8, and 24 are also allowable as these claims all depend from amended claim 1.

Applicants have amended claim 26 to specify “estimating the complex amplitude $E_s(r)$ of the acoustic component on the basis of the interferogram $I(r,t)$,” a limitation that was present in original claim 9. As the subject matter of claim 9 is novel and allowable, as acknowledged by the Examiner, amended claim 26 cannot be anticipated by Khoury, and should be allowable. Thus, claims 27 and 28 are also allowable as they depend from amended claim 26.

In view of the proposed amendments, Applicants submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

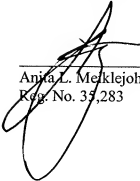
Filed herewith is a Petition for Extension of Time. The fees for the extension of time and the excess claims are being paid concurrently herewith. If there are any other fees, or credits, please apply them to Deposit Account No. 06-1050, referencing Attorney Docket No. 19320-0003US1.

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Respectfully submitted,

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